RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 12th August, 1986/21 Sravana, 1908 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. **Mr. Chairman** in the chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Purna Chandra Sharma, a former Member of the Rajya Sabha from the State of Assam,

Shri Purna Chandra Sharma was born at Nowgong, Assam, in October, 1900 and had his higher education at Cotton College, Gauhati, and University Law College, Calcutta. He practised law at the High Court of Assam and Supreme Court of India. An active participant in the freedom struggle in his younger days, Shri Sharma suffered imprisonment several times. He was a great connoisseur of music and was associated with various musical societies in Assam and also with the All India Radio Music Board.

Shri Sharma also served on the Court of the Gauhati University for some time. He was a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1952 and of this House from April, 1956 to April, 1962. A dedicated worker, Shri Sharma was a person of affable nature and took keen interest in the proceedings of this House during his term as a Member.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Purna Chandra Sharma.

I request the Members to rise in their places and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the Members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

Robbery in Delhi Branch of the State Bank of Mysore

*361. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK†:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi branch of the State Bank of Mysore was robbed by dacoits on the 20th May, 1986 and two watchmen were killed; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) State Bank of Mysore has reported that a burglary took place at its Connaught Place Branch, New Delhi on 27th May, 1986, in which two Chowkidars were killed. The break-up of cash and valuables taken away by the burglars is as under:—

(1) Cash—Rs. 964451.23.

(2) Foreign currency—Rs. 52039.70 (approx.)

(3) Gold jewellery—Rs. 84167.30.

In this connection, a case under Sections 458, 460, 380 and 302 IPC has been registered by the Delhi Police.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: It is very unfortunate, as the statement laid by the hon. Minister on the Table of the House says that the two poor fellows were tragically killed while discharging their duties as guards in the Bank.

It is a well-known fact that anti-social elements, robbers, dacoits or extremists whatever you may call them, have been striking in the banks in every nook and corner of the country, including the capital. It is very unfortunate that the hon. Home Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, perhaps a week ago while replying to a supplementary to Shri Kapil Verma's question had informed the House that not a single case of dacoity had taken place in the capital from 1.1.1986 to 31.7.1986.

I want to invite your attention to the statement provided by the hon. Minister that cash amounting to Rs. 9,64,451, foreign currency amounting to Rs. 52,039 and gold jewellery to the tune of Rs. 84,167 had been taken away by the robbers, and two murders had taken place. But Sir, our Minister is fighting on the technical point that they have registered a case...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question, please?

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I am coming to the question. I have not finished even three minutes as you allot to any one of the questioner. Sir, they are fighting on technicalities. This is a clear case of dacoity followed by two murders, but the Government is not registering the case. This is all due to inadequate security arrangements provided to the guards of the banks. In spite of providing rifles and guns to the guards they still become vulnerable to the dacoities. *(Time bell rings)* Therefore, may I know from the Minister whether the Government has ever thought of a plan to provide a separate guard room at the entrance of the bank?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put both supplementaries together... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Minister, the Member wants to know whether you are providing for guard room with all the required protection, etc.?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far there is no separate guard room for them . However, we will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I am sorry to note that the Government is sleeping for a long time over such an important matter. The Minister said that he would consider my suggestion which I have made now. However. I would like to know from the hon. Mnister, how much compensation had been given to these guards? Whether the Government has made any arrangements to provide employment to the members of these bereaved families? I would also like to know, whether the Government is thinking of providing walkie-talkie sets to the guards of the banks?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: The matter is still under investigation. As regards compensation, the investigations conducted so far reveals that it was a free entry and not a forced entry. The investigating team is examining the complicity of these two persons also. I am not in a position to tell the House now whether there is any conspiracy behind this incident. Sir, as soon as the investigation is completed, we will be in a position to tell the hon. Member about compensation and employment to the bereaved families.

We have also taken some steps to strengthen the security measures at the vulnerable branches of some banks. We have provided them with armed guards. Not only that, there is also coordination between the Police Department and the vulnerable branches.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member wants to know, whether you have provided walkie-talkie sets to the guards?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: So far we have not provided walkie-talkie sets. We will consider this suggestion also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Mr. Vaghela.

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : चेयरमैन, सर जिस गम्भीरता से इस प्रश्न को लेना चाहिये उतनी गम्भीरता से माननीय मंत्री जी जवाब नहीं दे रहे हैं, यह बहुत दुख की बात है। आजकल बैंकिंग सिस्टम के ऊपर जनता का भरोसा उठ गया है। दिन ब दिन बैंक राबरीज घटती नहीं है बल्कि डाके डालने का सिस्टम बढ़ रहा है। मैं आप से जानना चाहता हूं कि आज तक जितने डाके बैंकों पर डाले गये उसमें कितने लोग पकड़े गये और आपने क्या शिक्षा ली ? (बे) इसमें कोई ऐसा सिस्टम निकालना चाहिये कि बैंक की वहां लोकेशन हो जहां कम्पलसरी पुलिस स्टेशन हो, जहां बैंक चाहे अपनी ब्रांच, खोलना, तो इसकी अनुमति नहीं होना चाहिये। बैंक से पुलिस स्टेशन तक ऐसा इलेक्ट्रानिक सिस्टम हो कि एक बटन दबाने से ही पांच मिनट में पुलिस स्टेशन में मालूम हो जाये कि इस ब्रांच में डाका या कोई गड़बड़ है। इसलिये विदिन 5 मिनट्स के रेंज या एरिया में पुलिस स्टेशन और बैंक बिल्डिंगस होनी चाहिए, जहां बैंक चाहे वहां नहीं। एक बैंकों का काम्प्लेक्स होना चाहिये और तीसरा इंडियन सिक्योरिटी हो बैंक की पुलिस नहीं, वह पुलिस सस्ती हो जाती है। तो कोई इंडिपेंडेंट दूसरी सिक्योरिटी, बैंकिंग सिस्टम के अलावा क्या आप सोच रहे हैं ? मुझे ए, बी, सी, तीनों का पाइंटेड जवाब चाहिये कि कितने पकड़े गये, क्या किया बैंकिंग सिस्टम का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन और सिक्योरिटी का चेंज।

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. The number of dacoities that took place are in 1983—78, in 1984, 77 and uptil today, 54 dacoities and robberies have been reported in the country. Now, Sir, regarding the number of people who have been arrested, I can give the figure. 166 persons were arrested in 1982, 106 persons were arrested in 1983 and 86 persons were arrested in 1984. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Were they real dacoits?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the hon. Member must have come to know about the report of recent dacoit gang that has been busted. Now, here, 10 robbery cases have been worked out. Recently, in Delhi, the Delhi Police have arrested three dacoits, and in Bombay and other places, two dacoits have been arrested and this has led to the investigation of ten banks robberies *i.e.* 3 cases of 1983, 3 cases of 1984 and 4 cases of 1985 have been worked out. The police have been working out in this light. They have taken a lot of pain to investigate these cases and to the benefit of the hon. Member and for the information of the House, I can say, Sir the police people have taken steps to investigate and the latest position is very clear.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the practice and instructions, at the end of the day, cash is kept in the safe which is located in safe deposits vault. It is taken there within the banking hours. How the jewellery was being taken by these dacoits or burglars because jewellery is never kept in the cash box? So, I would like to know whether this dacoity or burglary, whatever you may call it, was done during the day time or it was done after the closing of the bank? If it was done after the closing hours, then how so much of cash can be taken away because cash is kept in the safe deposits vault?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, this burglary has taken place during the night time and after

banking hours. The fact remains that cash was found there and we have given the instructions to the banking people and to all the Chief Executives regarding the deficiencies that have been found and we have called the meeting of the Security Officers also. Time and again, instructions have been issued and we have been bringing to the notice of the banking people to take serious note of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Poojari, the question is very pointed.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, may I supplement to what my colleague has said? The burglars had entered the bank after making hole in the wall of strong room and after cutting the iron bars.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मान्यवर, 20 मई, 1986 को जो घटना घटी, उसके बारे में मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि वह घटना कितने बजे घटी ?

उसकी प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट, एफ० आई०आर० कितने बजे थाने में रिपोर्ट करवाई गई और किसने इस घटना को दर्ज करवाया तथा इस घटना का कोई चश्मदीद गवाह था या नहीं ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the FIR was sent by the bank people and so far as eye-witness is concerned, had there been any eye-witness, there would not have any difficulty for us? Sir, no eye-witness was there.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, my question has not been replied to. I asked: who had lodged the FIR?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been replied that bank people have filed the FIR.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, I want to know the name of the officer concerned, who lodged the FIR and also the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said, bank people have lodged the FIR and if you want the name of the officer who lodged the FIR, the Minister will give the information if it is available with him.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, I do not have the name. I will supply it to the hon. Member.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : उनके पास नाम तक नहीं है ।

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, time and again, we are bringing to the notice of the Government about the laxity in the security system of the banks. In spite of it, the bank management is very careless and negligent because the entire cash in a bank is completely insured. So they do not bother much about the dacoity. Sir, some time back, the Government appointed a high-powered committee to find out ways and means to check bank robberies, but it is astonishing to note that the recommendations of this committee have not been given due consideration by many of the bank branches in Delhi. The committee recommended that security guards should be posted and electronic gadgets should be installed in banks. It is astonishing to see that out of 1,250 branches in Delhi, only 78 branches are following the recommendations of the committee. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action will be taken against those bank branches which are not implementing the recommendations of the high-powered committee and how efficiently bank security will be ensured in future because crores of rupees of public money is deposited in the banks.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, it has been decided that high-risk branches of the banks will be identified and two armed guards will be provided, and where there is

normal risk, one armed guard. Also alarm systems will be installed and their maintenance will be frequently checked. Also we have decided to encourage silent alarm systems by which the neighbours could be informed by an extended ringing of the bell so that they in turn can inform the police. It has also been decided that on the day the market is closed, the bank also closes; it is not open on the day the market is closed in that area. Also the local police visit the branches and the flying squads visit them. These are the various measures that we have taken. Of course, the normal measures of ensuring physical security by iron gates, collapsible gates, etc. are there. So all these step are being taken.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, आजकल राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति सब से ज्यादा आरक्षित सम्पत्ति बन गई है और दुख की बात यह है कि राजधानी दिल्ली में भी बैंक डकैती नहीं रोकी जा सकती जहां पर कि दिल्ली सरकार को इतने सारे अधिकार प्राप्त हैं, यहां तो संविधान की आर्टीकल 249 भी बाधा नहीं डालती। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि कम से कम दिल्ली या बम्बई या कलकत्ता जैसे कैपिटल टाउन्ज में डकैती नहीं हो, इसके लिये अभी और क्या नये मेजर्ज उठाने जा रहे हैं चूंकि पहले जो मेजर्ज उठाये गये थे वे मेजर्ज तो असफल साबित हुये हैं ? तो मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अभी और क्या नए मेजर्ज आप इसके लिये लेने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the steps taken since 1985 have proved that the police machinery in Delhi is very effective. For the information of the hon. Member, I can say that in 1985, 9 bank robbery cases were registered. This time up to this period only two cases have been registered. In one case, the robbery has been foiled, and the other case that has been referred to in the main reply is the State Bank of Mysore case. The Delhi Police has taken effective measures in Delhi. Now these dacoits have shifted their area of operation to other parts of the country. So what we have done is, we have written to the Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers of State Governments. Also we have written to the chief executives of the banks. As the hon. Member knows, the law and order situation is a State subject. So far as the banks are concerned, we have been taking effective steps.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is admitted in the reply that while taking away the property, two lives were lost. The entry might have been through a hole by cutting the wall. But I fail to understand why the expression "burglary" has been used and why sections 302 and 380 have been applied instead of section 396 which also includes theft and these offences. Why is the hon. Minister not able to use section 396 which is a bigger section which includes all these offences? Otherwise it would give an impression that what is more serious is being minimised.

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Here as I stated, in the initial stages free entry was there. After that they cut open the wall and they made the entry. Now section 302 is there under which capital punishment could be given. It cannot be minimised at all. The offence is very clear—murder. About this also, when the investigation is completed, then we can definitely convert it into the other Section, 396.

Unemployed Doctors, Engineers and Scientist

*362. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:†
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed doctors, engineers and scientists and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ashwani Kumar.